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BATMAN FACES A MYSTERY FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PAST!

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NO. 328
OCT.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN



A COURT FOUND ME
NOT GUILTY OF MURDER—
BUT I **DID** KILL THE
VICTIM AND YOU'LL
NEVER PROVE IT,
BATMAN!



DOUBLE JEOPARDY!
A NOVEL-LENGTH
THRILLER!

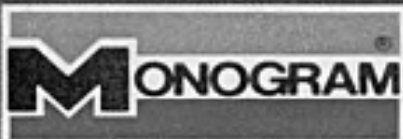


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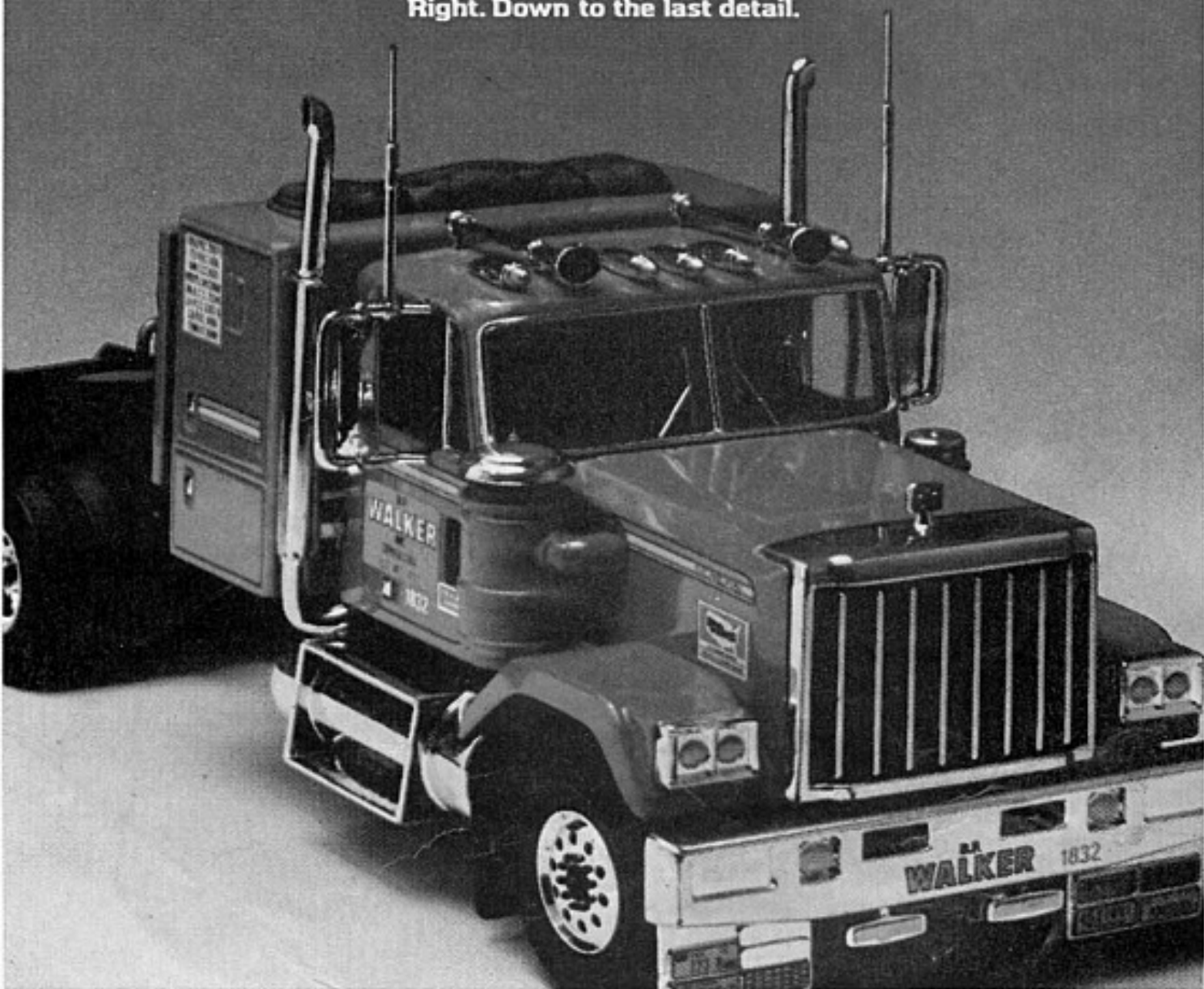


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SOMBER DARKNESS FILLS THE BATCAVE. THEN, SUDDENLY, IT COMES ALIVE WITH FLICKERING LUMINESCENCE...

BATMAN! YOU'VE WITNESSED THE RE-ENACTMENT OF MY TRIAL--

YOU'VE SEEN ME ACQUITTED OF ANTON KAROSHELLE'S MURDER BY A JURY OF MY PEERS...

BUT, I WANT YOU, BATMAN, YOU ABOVE ALL TO KNOW--NOT ONLY DID I KILL THAT MAN ONCE--

--I KILLED HIM TWICE!!

BAT MAN

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

MARY WOLFGAN • IRV NOVICK & FRANK McLAUGHLIN
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KILLED HIM TWICE, SIR? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

QUIET, ALFRED. THERE'S MORE!

YOU HEARD ME, BATMAN. NOW THAT I AM A FREE MAN--

---NOW THAT I CAN NO LONGER BE TRIED TWICE FOR THE SAME CRIME--

---NOW THAT I AM PROTECTED BY THE LAWS GOVERNING DOUBLE JEOPARDY--



--NOW, I ADMIT MY GUILT!

HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN, KNOWING THE LAWS OF JUSTICE WHICH YOU SO FERVENTLY PROTECT HAVE BEEN SO FLAGRANTLY FLOUTED?

HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE POWERLESS TO BRING AN ADMITTED MURDERER TO HIS KNEES?

HOW DO YOU FEEL, BATMAN? HOW DO YOU FEEL?



SUDDENLY, THE BATCAVE MOVIE SCREEN FADES TO WHITE...

ASTONISHING! AND DREADFULLY VILE!

SIR, CAN HE ACTUALLY GET AWAY WITH MURDER?



AND WHY WOULD HE INFORM YOU OF HIS DEED?

SURELY, HE MUST REALIZE YOU WOULD-- EH? THE MASTER'S ALREADY GONE!



ISN'T HARD TO GUESS WHY THAT FILM WAS SENT-- HE OBVIOUSLY WANTS ME TO HUNT HIM DOWN...

WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT HE'S SET SOME SORT OF TRAP.

WELL, I'LL ONLY BE TOO GLAD TO ACCOMMODATE HIM--



--AFTER I'VE DONE A LITTLE BACK-GROUND RESEARCH!

PERFECT! THE RECORD MORGUE IS EMPTY... IT'S BEST IF NO ONE KNEW I WAS HERE TONIGHT.

WITH SOMEONE AFTER ME, THE FEWER OUTSIDERS WHO KNOW ABOUT IT, THE BETTER!

OFFICIAL CHANNELS CAN WAIT FOR A CRIME OF A LESS PERSONAL NATURE!





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THESE CARDS ARE PLACED ALIVE AND
DO NOT REPRESENT ACTUAL SEASIDE SCENES



DARK, TWISTING SHADOWS CURL OMINOUSLY THROUGH THE GRIMY STREETS OF CRIME ALLEY. THICK, STIFLING BLACKNESS SEEMS EVERYWHERE...

MARY ANN?

AH, LADDIE, 'TIS YE!

Y'FAIR GAVE ME A SPOOK WON'DRIN' WHO'D BE SNEAKIN' OWN'TN THESE FORSAKEN STREETS.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE, MARY ANN.

AN' FORFEIT ME BEST COLLECTIN' HOURS? LADDIE YE SHOULD KNOO BETTER B' NOW!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAVE TO RUMMAGE. I CAN --

LADDIE, AIN'T *NOTHIN'* YE CAN DO FUH ME CAN YE HELP T'FOIND ME SUCH UH BEAUTY OF UH LAMP THAT THE SALVATION ARMY WOULD PAY ME TEN BUCKS? NAY, I DIN NEED YE FER THAT!

NOW, YE AIN'T COME ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE T'CHAT...

GOOD FRIENDS CAN'T TALK BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS?

WITH YE, LAD, BUSINESS MEANS DANGER, AN' DANGER MEANS YE HAD BETTER RUSH. SO SPEAK UP AN' GET ON WITH IT.

THREE WEEKS AGO A MAN NAMED KAROSELLE WAS *KILLED*. AN- OTHER MAN, CARL TERNION, WAS TRIED AND *ACQUITTED* FOR THAT MURDER.

ONLY, TERNION *DID* MURDER KAROSELLE. I HAVE TO PROVE IT.

FAITH! NEITHER NAME STRIKES ME MEMORY-- WHICH AIN'T ALL THAT GOOD THESE DAYS ANYWAY...

...BUT I'LL BE PUTTIN' OUT THE WORD, AND I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YE-- THE USUAL WAY.

I'D APPRECIATE IT, MARY ANN.

THINK *NOTHIN'* OF IT, LADDIE. I STILL OWE YE FER ALL YE'VE DONE FUH THIS OLD BAG 'A BONES!

ONCE AGAIN THE SHADOWS TWIST. THEN, IN A MOMENT, THEY ARE STILL...

HOME, A GLEAMING PENTHOUSE APARTMENT HIGH ABOVE THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...

HOW DID THE INVESTIGATION FARE, SIR?

FRANKLY, ALFRED, IT'S A PUZZLE!

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, TERNION AND KAROSSELLE HAD NEVER MET OR KNOWN EACH OTHER BEFORE THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER.

THERE SEEMED NO DISCERNABLE MOTIVE OTHER THAN THE ONE TERNION HIMSELF GAVE.

WHICH WAS--?

A MURDER KAROSSELLE SUPPOSEDLY COMMITTED... ANOTHER MURDER WITHOUT A MOTIVE.

"THE POLICE REPORT STATES TERNION ENTERED KAROSSELLE'S MANSION DIRECTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT..."

WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

YOU'RE ANTON KAROSSELLE?

YOU GOT IT, BUDDY--NOW, WHO ARE YOU?

CALL ME YOUR ACCUSER. YOU MURDERED DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAVID STEVENS.

YOU'RE MAD! I'M A CRIPPLE! EVEN IF I KNEW THIS STEVENS, I COULDN'T KILL HIM!

YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES, KAROSSELLE. I HAVE PROOF!

ANTON KAROSSELLE? THAT NAME DOESN'T SEEM FAMILIAR, SIR.

NOR TO ME, ALFRED. I'M RUNNING IT THROUGH THE BATCAVE COMPUTERS EVEN NOW.

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE AND TERNION, KAROSSELLE DID NOT TAKE THIS ACCUSATION WELL...

YOU'RE A FOOL, MAN. WHATEVER YOU MAY KNOW--

--WILL REMAIN THE SECRET OF A DEAD TRESPASSER IN MY HOME!

BAM-BAM!

NOT IF YOU CAN'T HIT ME, KAROSSELLE!

OH, I'LL DO MORE THAN JUST HIT YOU, MISTER--

I'LL MAKE CERTAIN YOU'LL NEVER REVEAL WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME.

BAM!
BAM!

YOU'RE TOO LATE FOR THAT, MY FRIEND. I HAD TO SNEAK PAST A POLICE CORDON TO GET TO YOU--

YOU WERE DOOMED EVEN BEFORE I CAME HERE!

BAM!
NO!

"A STRAY BULLET..."

KRAK!

... ACCIDENTALLY SHEARED THE ROD HOLDING UP KAROSSELLE'S CHANDELIER...

KE-RASH!

"AND, AS THE POLICE ENTERED, THEY FOUND KAROSSELLE DEAD!"

YOU SAY THE POLICE WERE ALREADY OBSERVING KAROSSELLE'S MANSION?

THEIR INVESTIGATION OF DAVE STEVENS' MURDER LED THEM TO KAROSSELLE.

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THIS TERNION FELLOW JUST MIGHT BE INNOCENT?

NORMALLY I'D SAY SO EXCEPT FOR THE FILM HE SENT ME.

ALSO, IF HE KNEW THE POLICE HAD FOUND KAROSSELLE-- WHY SNEAK IN PAST THEM?

NO, CARL TERNION DELIBERATELY MURDERED KAROSSELLE ... AND I HAVE TO PROVE IT!

THEY SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND IT WAS THE POLICE TESTIMONY THAT FINALLY CLEARED CARL TERNION.

HE SITS... A SOMBER SILHOUETTE, FRAMED
IN THE GLOW OF A FULL PALE MOON.

... BY THE GHOULISH RAPPING OF FLESH
POUNDING FLESH...

FOR LONG MOMENTS HE
SILENTLY STARES INTO THE
DARKNESS, A THOUSAND
THOUGHTS SCRAMBLING
THROUGH HIS MIND.

SUDDENLY, HIS MENTAL
MUSINGS ARE
INTERRUPTED...

PUNKS BEATING
ON AN INNOCENT
CITIZEN. YOU
SCUM MAKE
ME SICK!

THERE MUST BE SOME LOGIC TO THIS
CRIME... SOME KEY TO UNLOCK THE
MYSTERY. BUT WHERE? WHAT?

AND IT'S ONLY
WHEN YOU
STUMBLE ACROSS
SOMEONE
BIGGER THAN
YOU THAT YOU
SCURRY BACK
TO THE RATHOLES
YOU SQUIRMED
OUT OF!

WELL, THIS
TIME YOU'RE
NOT RUNNING
OFF!

SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN HEARS A FAINT GROAN
FROM BEHIND HIM...

MARY
ANN? I
DIDN'T
KNOW IT
WAS YOU.

SAVED ME AGAIN, EH,
LADDIE? YER MAKIN' A
HABIT OUT OF IT, EH?

YOU'RE
BLEEDING
... I'VE GOT
TO GET YOU
TO THE
HOSPITAL.

WAIT, LADDIE,
'EAR ME OUT.
THEY CAME
AFTER ME
FUH ASKIN'
QUESTIONS...

... I FOUND
FOUND
OUT... EKK...
EKKK... OUT
... EKKK...
OUTTTT...
UNNNHH...

DON'T
TALK...
YOU'VE
GOT TO
REST.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

HAWKMAN™ in "SHE'S NO ANGEL"



THE GOLDEN STATUE OF A RAVEN CERTAINLY ADDS CLASS TO RAVENSWOOD SQUARE!!!

BUT THE MIGHTY HAWKMAN IS SWEEPED OFF HIS COURSE...

FALCONS... DIVE-BOMBING ME LIKE A SQUAD OF FEATHERED WARPLANES.



...AND FLOWN TO A PARAPET HIGH ABOVE THE PLAZA.

THEY'RE YOUR TRAINED PIGEONS, GOLDEN RAVEN?

YES, MINE! AND THEY'LL HOLD YOU HERE UNTIL THE GOLD STATUE IN RAVENSWOOD SQUARE IS ALSO MINE.



THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO DISSUADE HER FROM HER NEFARIOUS PURPOSE... WHILE THESE BIRDS ARE HOLDING ME HERE... GOT IT!

THE GOLDEN STATUE IS WITHIN MY GRASP! WHA... **HOSTESS** FRUIT PIES. APPLE AND CHERRY.



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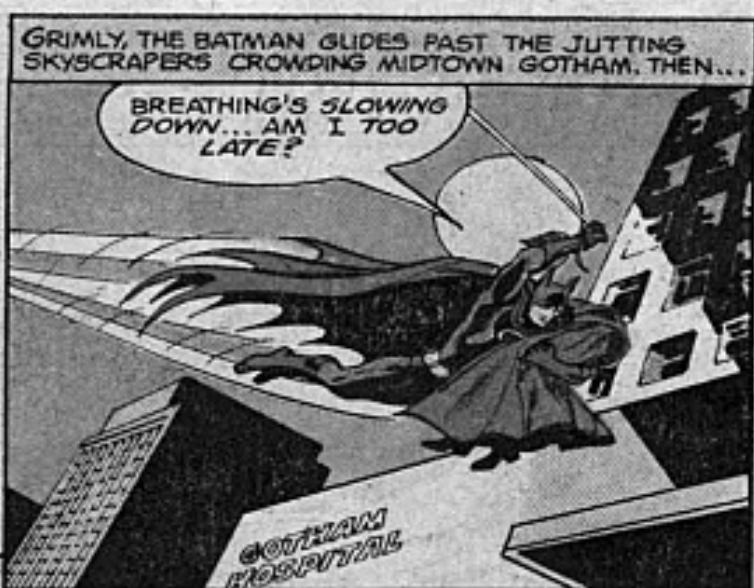


THE COURTS WILL SOON CLIP YOUR WINGS, GOLDEN RAVEN.

THOSE **HOSTESS** FRUIT PIES WERE SO GOOD THEY TOOK MY MIND OFF MY BIRDS... AND MY HANDS OFF THE STATUE.

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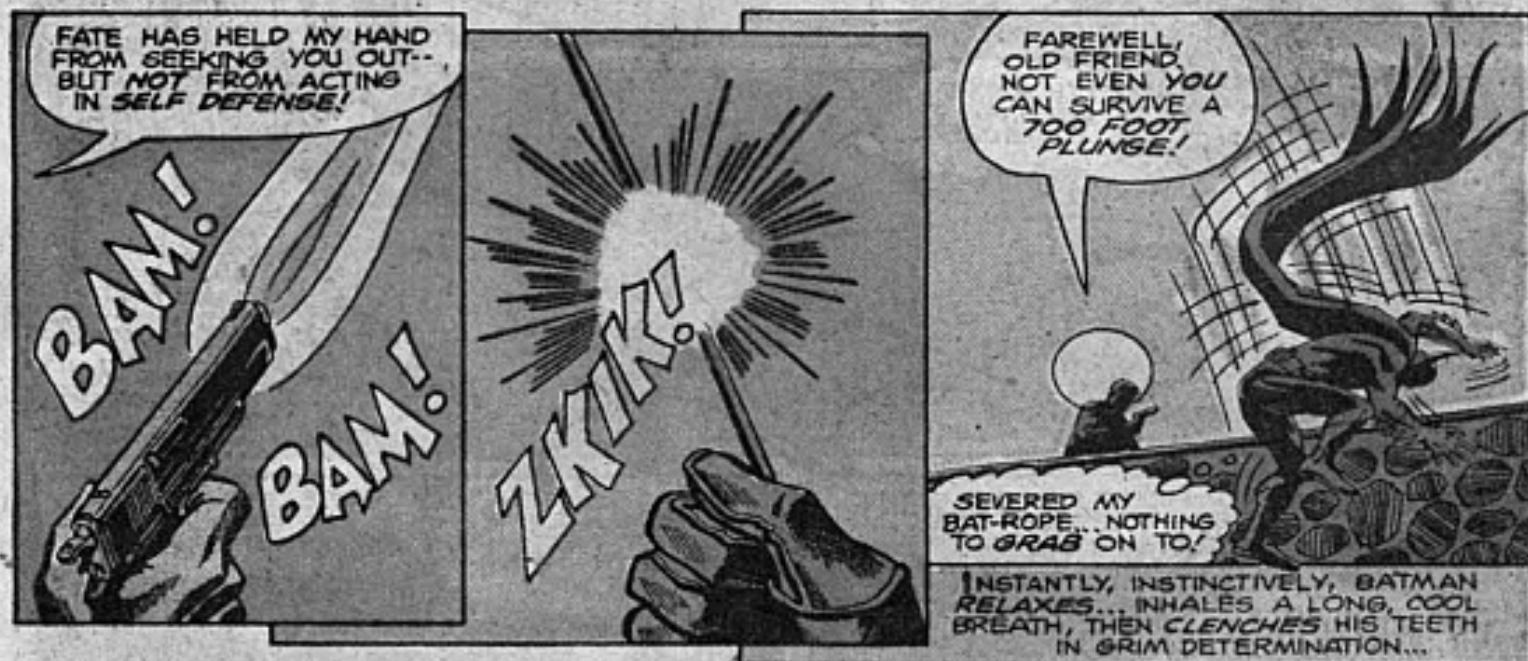


GOTHAM DAM, A MAGNIFICENT HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION FIFTEEN MILES UPSTATE...



CARL TERNION TURNS HIS BACK ON THE SUDDENLY VERY FRIGHTENED VINNIE ALLEN. THEN...





FOR LONG MOMENTS HE SEEM-
INGLY GLIDES GROUNDWARD THEN
ALL AT ONCE, BATMAN TWISTS
HIS LITHE BODY LEFTWARD, JERK-
ING IT TOWARD THE DAM'S RE-
INFORCEMENT RODS NOW
DIRECTLY BELOW...



HIS POWERFUL ARMS STRETCH
OUTWARD, HIS MUSCLES BUNCH
AND TENSE. HE PREPARES HIM-
SELF TO ACCEPT THE SUDDEN,
JOLTING PAIN...



BATMAN, YOU TRULY ASTOUND
AND CONFOUND ME. ONLY YOU
COULD HAVE SAVED YOURSELF
IN SUCH A GRAND MANNER!



A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE THE DAM'S
BLOCKHOUSE...

EVEN NOW FATE
PREVENTS ME
FROM KILLING
HIM OUTRIGHT!

BUT, I CAN STILL
OFFER HIM AN EVEN
CHANCE FOR
SURVIVAL--

--PROVIDING, OF COURSE,
HE CAN SURVIVE BEING
DELUGED BY A THOUSAND
TONS OF RAVAGING WATER!!

RROOAAAR

HE'S
OPENED
THE SPILLWAY,
AS I
EXPECTED...

WELL, AT LEAST MY
REBREATHER WILL
PREVENT ME FROM
DROWNING, IF NOT
FROM BEING
CRUSHED!

MENTALLY, THE DARKKNIGHT DETECTIVE COUNTS
OFF THE PRECIOUS SECONDS...

THEN, AS THE WATER
ALL BUT ENGULFS HIM,
HE DIVES HEADLONG INTO
THE ONRUSHING WAVE...

RRR-WOOSH!

LIKE A
PRACTICED
SURFER,
HE TWISTS
HIS BODY
WITH THE
WATER'S
FLOW...

HIS ACHING MUSCLES
GUIDE HIM FORWARD
AS HIS REBREATHER
SPENDS ITS LAST...

THEN AS THE FOAMING WATER GUSHES PAST HIS NARROWED EYES, HE SPIES THE FAINT METALLIC GLIMMER OF A FAMILIAR SHAPE...



HIS BODY WRACKED WITH PAIN, THE BATMAN THRUSTS A POWERFUL ARM THROUGH THE TERRIBLE ONRUSHING CURRENT...

THE LADDER IS HIS!



HIS THROAT ACHING FOR WANT OF AIR, HIS CHEST HEAVING, THE BATMAN BEGINS A SOLEMN CLIMB TOWARD THE SURFACE... TOWARD LIFE...



THE TRIP BACK TO THE WAYNE FOUNDATION IS LONG, AND, WHEN A TIRED BRUCE WAYNE FINALLY ARRIVES HOME...



BRUCE... I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SPEAK TO YOU... IF YOU CAN --?

LUCIUS? WHAT'S WRONG?

IN... A MANNER OF SPEAKING, BRUCE... AN EMERGENCY HAS COME UP... AN EMERGENCY OF A HIGHLY PERSONAL NATURE.



I'VE RUN THIS THROUGH MY MIND A HUNDRED TIMES, AND THOUGH IT PAINS ME, I CAN'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LUCIUS? SOMEONE OFFER YOU A BETTER JOB?

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, BRUCE.

IT IS JUST THAT... I HAVE SOME PROBLEMS THAT PREVENT ME FROM CARRYING OUT MY JOB PROPERLY.

BRUCE, I'M TENDERING MY RESIGNATION!



SORRY, LUCIUS, BUT YOU'RE NOT RESIGNING. I WON'T LET YOU!

CONTINUED ON 25th PAGE FOLLOWING.

RICHIE RICH[®] IN FATHER KNOWS BEST

THE POOR LITTLE RICH BOY

HOW DID WE GET TO BE RICH, DAD?

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HURRY!

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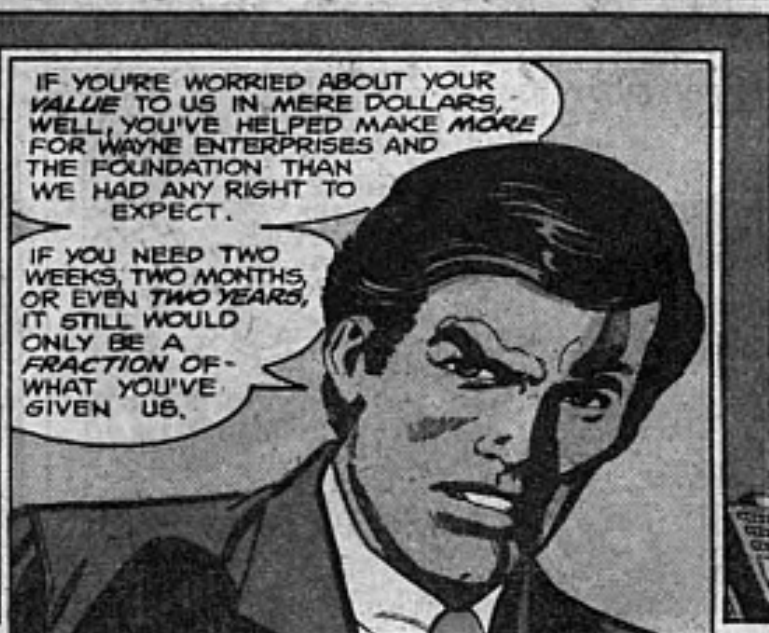
In Care of _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

☐ Male ☐ Female Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below



CARL TERNION PAUSES BEFORE THE DOOR LEADING TO DR. ALBERT EKHART'S OFFICE. HIS FINGERS TREMBLE AS HE CLUTCHES THE BRONZE KNOB...



ALL TOO SOON TERNION WILL KNOW WHETHER HE HOLDS A HOPEFUL FUTURE... OF IF HE IS FORCED TO REMAIN A VICTIM OF HIS OWN, TWISTED PAST...



EKHART, I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT THE SURGERY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HOLDING.

I WARNED YOU OF THAT CHANCE, DIDN'T I?

YES... BUT I HAD NO CHOICE, DID I?

I WANTED TO WIN BACK GILDA... I WANTED HER TO BE MY WIFE-- FOR THE SECOND TIME!

YOU KNOW HER, EKHART--YOU KNOW SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT ME THE WAY I WAS. I WAS FORCED TO TAKE THE RISK.

AND NOW, MY HAPLESS FRIEND, YOU ARE SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES, EH?

YES, I CAN SEE MY WORK IS BEGINNING TO FADE. SOON YOU WILL BE AS YOU WERE.



I AM TRULY SORRY, BUT I TOLD YOU LONG AGO THAT YOU COULD NOT BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT THIS SURGERY.

AT BEST I GAVE YOU TEMPORARY HOPE... PERHAPS THAT WAS WORSE THAN NO HOPE AT ALL...

I AM SORRY, BUT IN THIS, NOTHING CAN BE PERMANENT...

YOU'RE WRONG THERE, DOCTOR. ONE THING CAN BE PERMANENT...

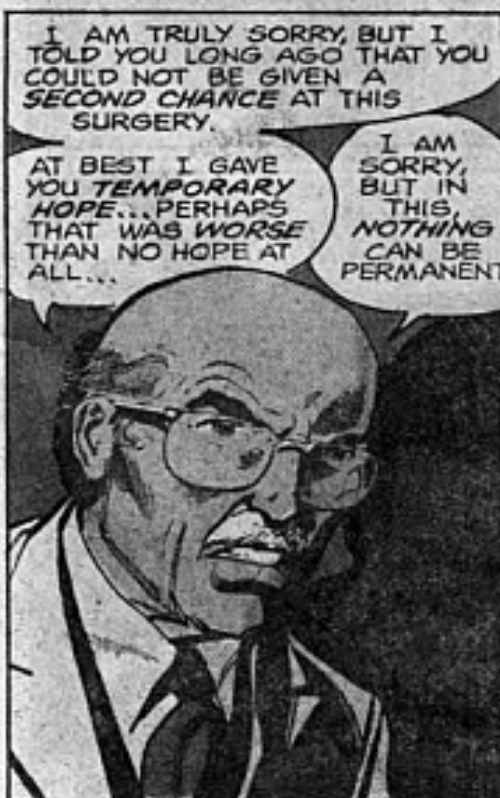
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

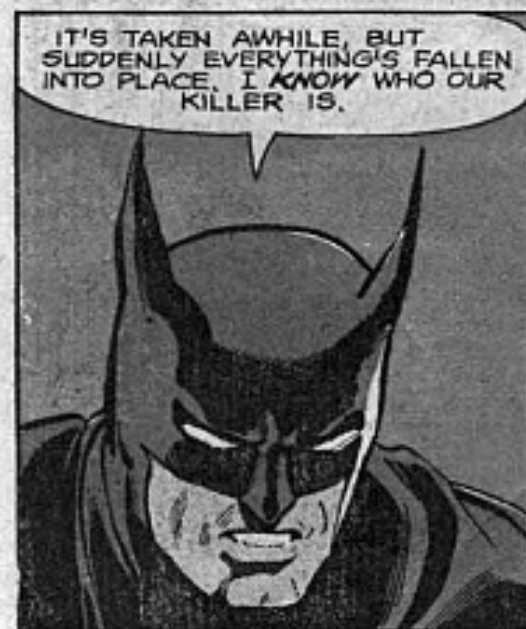


YOU SAY YOU CAN NEVER HELP ME AGAIN... AND SINCE THE FATES, TOO, HAVE DECREED YOUR USELESSNESS--

--I NOW GIVE TO YOU THE ONLY GIFT THAT WILL ALWAYS BE PERMANENT--

--DEATH!!





AND, IN THE APARTMENT OF
GILDA STEVENS...

WHAT'S WRONG, HONEY?
YOU LOOK ILL!

DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS,
CARL? THE POLICE JUST
FOUND THE BODY OF DR.
EKHART. HE WAS...KILLED...

EKHART.

HE... WAS A PLASTIC SUR-
GEON... HE'S THE ONE WHO
HELPED MY FIRST HUSBAND...
MANY YEARS AGO.

HE GAVE HARVEY
AND ME SUCH
HOPE...

AND NOW...
NOW HE'S
GONE, TOO...
JUST LIKE
HARVEY... JUST
LIKE DAVE!

I FEEL SO
ALONE, CARL
...SO VERY
ALONE...

ALL OF
THOSE PEOPLE
I ONCE KNEW
ARE EITHER
DEAD OR
GONE...

NOT ALL, MY LOVELY
GILDA... THERE'S STILL
ONE WHO LIVES... BUT,
NOT FOR LONG.

AND, ONCE I KILL
THE BATMAN-- THEN
NOBODY WILL BE
LEFT TO PREVENT
YOU FROM BECOMING
MY WIFE--

--FOR
THE SECOND
TIME!!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA! HA!

HA!

NEXT
ISSUE

A VILLAIN FROM BATMAN'S PAST RETURNS TO THREATEN HIS FUTURE:

TWICE DIES THE BATMAN!

ON SALE AUGUST 11TH!

GRIMLY, HE GLIDES THROUGH THE COAL-DARK NIGHT, A SHADOW SLIPPING PAST A THOUSAND OTHER NIGHT-TIME SHADOWS...



HE IS RETURNING HOME FOR A WELL-DESERVED SLEEP.

HE WILL NEED IT.

EKHART IS DEAD, AND HE KNOWS THAT MEANS ONE OF HIS MOST DIABOLICAL FOES IS NOT.

SILENTLY, HE ENTERS HIS PENTHOUSE APARTMENT, HIS TIRED EYES SEARCHING FOR A FAMILIAR FACE...



ALFRED! I'M BACK.

ALFRED!

FOR LONG MOMENTS ONLY SILENCE GREET'S HIM, THEN...

M-MASTER BRUCE...

SIR...I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT--

WHAT IS IT, ALFRED? WHAT'S WRONG?

SIR--IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MAY SOUND--

THE BATCAVE IS HAUNTED!

ALFRED! WHAT'S WRONG?



A TALE of TIME PAST!

MARV WOLFMAN, * DON NEWTON & KIM MULDER * MILT SNAPINN * ADRIENNE ROY * PAUL LEVITZ
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR



IT SOUNDS
DAFT AND I
KNOW IT--

--BUT, SIR... I
HEARD A KNOCK-
ING THROUGH
THE WALLS
THEMSELVES...

A KNOCKING
...AND A
FRIGHTFUL
MOANING
CRY...

SHOW ME,
ALFRED!



YOU BELIEVE
ME, SIR?

DO YOU
HAVE TO
ASK?



THEY CAME
FROM ALL THE
WAY IN BACK,
SIR--AWAY
FROM THE
MAIN CAVE.



HERE?

YES, SIR.

THE CAVE WALL
HERE IS ONLY
INCHES THICK.



IF YOU HEARD RAPPING, IT'S
LIKELY SOMEONE IS IN TROUBLE
ON THE OTHER SIDE.

OTHER SIDE?
BUT HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE, SIR?



THE BATMAN DOES NOT ANSWER.
INSTEAD, HE BELTS HIMSELF
INTO THE BATMOBILE...

...GUNS ITS
MIGHTY
ENGINES...



AND...

THE BATMAN--HERE?
B-BUT HOW--?



KRASSHH!

FOR YEARS CRIMINALS HAVE BELIEVED
THE BATMAN TO BE SOME SORT OF
DEMON WHO SEES ALL... KNOWS ALL...
AVENGES ALL.

FOR YEARS, JAMES GORDON
HAS SCOFFED AT THIS
SUPERNATURAL CONCEPT.

TODAY, FAR BELOW GOTHAM CITY, FAR
AWAY FROM WHERE ANY ORDINARY
MAN HAS ANY RIGHT TO BE... JAMES
GORDON IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT HE
BELIEVES...

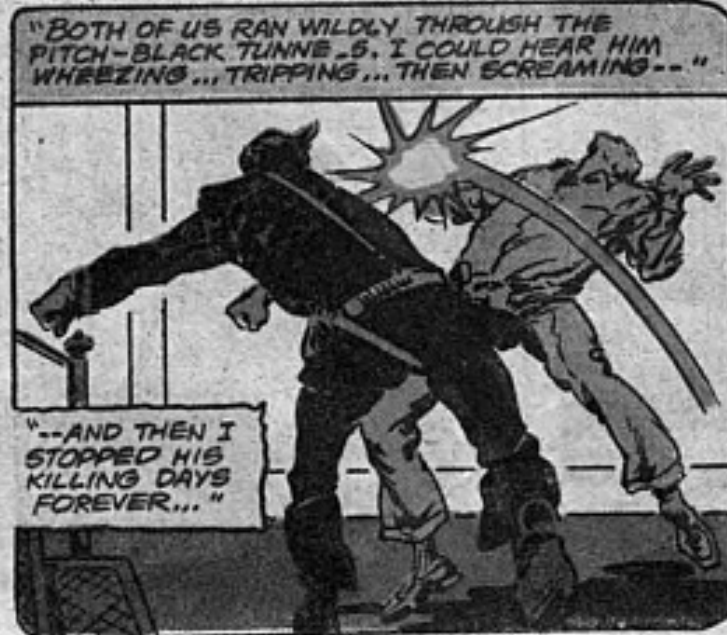




"DON'T ASK ME HOW I SENSED
IT, BUT EVEN BEFORE I SAW IT,
I KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."



"FOR AN HOUR I WANDERED
THE TUNNELS. THEN, AFTER
I HEARD A MUFFLED
EXPLOSION, I SAW HIM..."



(CONTINUED ON 2 OF PAGE FOLLOWING)

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THAT WAS
THIRTY FIVE
YEARS AGO.

TONIGHT,
AFTER
RETURNING
FROM THE
PIER
MURDER...

IF YOU WANT TO
SOLVE THE WEBER
JEWEL THEFT, MEET
ME AT...



I KNOW I MUST BE
AN OLD FOOL, BECAUSE
I WENT AGAINST ALL
MY TRAINING IN
FOLLOWING
THOSE PHONE
INSTRUCTIONS.

SO, OF COURSE,
I BLUNDERED
INTO A TRAP...

"A TRAP SET BY A MAN WHO IS THE SPITTING IMAGE
OF HANK WEBER'S KILLER..."

...THAT'S RIGHT,
GORDON, I'M
DARYL RICHMOND'S
SON-- REMEMBER,
RICHMOND, GORDON?
YOU SHOULD. YOU
DROVE HIM MAD!

DAY AND NIGHT HE'D BABBLE
ON ABOUT YOU AND THOSE
JEWELS...AND LAST
WEEK THAT OBSESSION
FINALLY KILLED
HIM--

JUST AS I'M
GOING TO KILL
YOU FOR WHAT
YOU DID TO
MY FATHER!



HIS FATHER HAD TOLD HIM
WHERE HE HID THE JEWELS...
AND THAT KID--

--THAT KID WANTED
ME TO WATCH HIM
FIND THEM--BEFORE
HE KILLED ME.

HARD TO
BELIEVE THEY
WOULD BE IN
THIS TUNNEL.
THIS EXTENSION
WAS NEVER
COMPLETED--



--IT WAS PERMANENTLY
SEALED UP IN 1945.

SUDDENLY...

COMMISSIONER!

AGGHHH!
MY LEG!



ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

I WOULD BE
IF I KNEW
WHAT THE
RICHMOND
FAMILY HAS
AGAINST MY
LEGS!

IT TORE THROUGH...
LIKE HIS FATHER'S
BULLET DID.







AFTER THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SUMMONED...

RICHMOND WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF... IN ARKHAM...

...AND THE JEWELS ARE STILL LOST.

I'VE NEVER MADE GOOD ON MY PROMISE TO POOR HANK.

THE BATMAN IS SILENT AS GORDON IS HELPED TO THE HOSPITAL...



BUT, LATER IN THE BATCAVE...

I STILL FAIL TO UNDERSTAND, SIR...

I'VE TOLD YOU THAT THE BATCAVE WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF AN OLD ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL--*

--THE SAME TUNNEL RICHMOND'S FATHER BLUNDERED INTO YEARS AGO.

GORDON SAID HE HEARD AN EXPLOSION. RICHMOND MUST HAVE BURIED HIS TREASURE--

--THEN RIGGED SOME OF THE EXPLOSIVES THE WORKMEN USED IN CARVING OUT THE TUNNEL--

--TO MAKE CERTAIN THE TREASURE WOULD STAY BURIED UNTIL HE WAS FREE TO DIG IT UP.

*AS REVEALED IN DETECTIVE #470.--PAUL.



POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

SIR, THIS PACKAGE JUST CAME FOR YOU.

THANK YOU, SARAH. JUST PUT IT ON MY DESK, PLEASE.



REMEMBRANCES FROM TIMES PAST. IT WAS YOUR CLUE THAT LEAD ME TO THEM.

IT'S TAKEN QUITE A WHILE, HANK... THIRTY-FIVE LONG YEARS...

I...I KNOW IT MIGHT BE LATE, BUDDY-- BUT I PRAY I'VE DONE GOOD FOR YOU AT LAST...

I JUST PRAY I'VE DONE GOOD.

THE END



Dear Editor,

After reading *BATMAN* #323, does anyone really want to see the regal Catwoman leading a life of quiet domesticity?

As Mrs. Bruce Wayne, she would merely be basking in his reflected glory and always open to ridicule and rebuke by his associates for her infamous past deeds.

And besides, who could profess a love for Catwoman, derived from an irresistible mixture of beauty, brains, and roguish brashness, and suggest such a demeaning fate for comicdom's consummate crime queen, especially on this—her 40th anniversary?

Here's hoping for 40 more, S.K.I

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, Pa. 18509

Rest assured, Jeffrey, that whatever we have in mind for Selina when she next returns, quiet domesticity has NEVER crossed our minds. Speaking of irresistible, however, another of the women in Batman's life is scheduled for a starring role in the near future, as Talia returns in #330's extra-length novell—PL

Dear People,

For what you have done to The Batman, I sentence you to stand up and take a bow.

This book has become such a beautiful piece of entertainment, that it is hard to believe that it is not just a dream. Batman has grown up quite a bit these last few years. The various writers have tried to show us more of the man and not just the enigma that he is.

I've always felt that Bruce Wayne and The Batman have been pictured as two completely separate people. These two personalities must play off of each other (as has been done lately) and not against each other.

The best scenes in *BATMAN* #323 were when The Batman confronted Selina in the opening scenes and Catwoman confronting Bruce a few panels later. These scenes (which were well thought out) showed us how much Bruce/Batman and Selina/Catwoman are alike. Selina loves Bruce and dislikes The Batman, whereas Bruce loves Selina and dislikes Catwoman.

The tragic thing about this is that both of them only love a half of what the other person really is. If it is for this reason that their romance is doomed.

A major problem with this book used to be that it lacked continuity. What I mean by this is that the old Batman stories never seemed to happen in any specific order, they just happened. With the addition of subplots, each succeeding issue becomes part of one enormous story and not just scattered events. I can now look forward (somewhat impatiently) to each new issue.

In closing, I would just like to say that I have been reading Batman comics since issue number 144 and NO ONE can draw the Catwoman like Irv Novick.

Dan Hauptert
1233 Somerset Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60193

New scripter Marv Wolfman promises that he'll reveal even more of the humanity of Bruce Wayne and the Batman, and has cooked up a storyline that will show it's even harder to tell where the one person begins and the other ends than we thought.—PL

Dear Paul,

Re: Batman #323.

How can Bruce profess to love Selina and then actually believe that she had gone back to being The Catwoman? There really was no concrete proof of her guilt as she stated to Batman. Even the museum guard saw only a person dressed in a cat outfit who clawed his face. Anyone could've done that to frame The Catwoman. And, that seems to be exactly what happened.

Batman and Catwoman were both surprised to have been caught by the Cat-Man, but does that mean Pinch didn't tell Selina who had the urns when he directed her to that warehouse? It sure was a coincidence that Cat-Man swiped the Egyptian urns when Selina wanted them. Then again, if he heard about Selina's argument with the museum guide he probably figured that if he stole it the police would naturally blame The Catwoman.

Surely Bruce can guess that something is genuinely wrong with Selina. He sent her to see Dr. Dundee for her headaches, didn't he? So he must know that something is troubling her. All he needs from her is confirmation and a few specific details.

Karen Wu
851 Tantau Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

As our stories made clear, in retrospect even Bruce felt that he had been unfair to Selina...but that the ever-doubting Batman aspects of his personality simply drove him on. And, of course, there was no reason to believe that anyone had a motive for framing Catwoman...or the unique aptitude of the Catman for pulling off just such a frame.—PL

NEXT MONTH: "Twice Dies The Batman" when he squares off against Two Face in our lead by Marv Wolfman and Irv Novick, and then the Gotham Guardian is reunited with Robin in an added attraction featurette!—Paul Levitz

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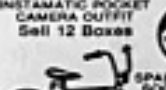
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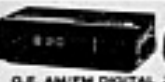
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